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HISTORY of a CASE in which very UNCOMMON  
WORMS were discharged from the STOMACH; with  
OBSERVATIONS thereon. By SAMUEL CRUMPE,  
M. D. M. R. I. A.

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THE lady whose case I am about to relate had been for many years subject to inflammatory affections of the lungs, which generally terminated in a copious and long continued expectoration. I was called to her assistance for the first time on the 2d of November 1788; she was then about twenty-six years of age and had been about two years married. She appeared to me to labour under the symptoms which characterize the advanced stages of phthisis pulmonalis, and which need not here be enumerated; and to these, according to her own account, she had been more or less liable every winter and spring for some years back. As her sweats were very profuse, and she complained much of troublesome cough, and want of rest, the principal remedies prescribed were those calculated to restrain the pressing symptoms; and consisted chiefly of the weak vitriolic acid, and thebaic tincture. By these she found herself relieved until the 22d of

Read December  
6th 1794.

December, when she was seized with an evident peripneumony, attended by considerable pain under the sternum, which required, and yielded to, copious blood-letting and blisters. It terminated as usual in an abundant expectoration, and she recovered from it but slowly. About the latter end of February however she began to gain strength and soon after was to all appearance perfectly recovered.

On the 14th of July 1789 I was again called to her, and found her again labouring under the symptoms of pneumonic inflammation; from which she was by the usual mode of treatment freed in four or five days.

AUGUST 4th I was again called on. She has been troubled for five or six days past with a vomiting of blood, which generally recurs twice or thrice in the twenty-four hours; and is preceded by a sense of weight and oppression about the præcordia, which are relieved by the vomiting. The quantity thrown up is various at different times; sometimes a tea-cup full, sometimes not two table-spoon fulls, and generally in clots. Complaints also of want of sleep, profuse night sweats, tendency to cough, which is prevented by great soreness in her chest, want of appetite, and sometimes difficulty of breathing; pulse natural in point of frequency, but very full, belly regular. She was bled to about eight ounces, blood remarkably fizy.

AUGUST 6. Symptoms as before, excepting the pulse, which is very natural. She was ordered an infusion of the bark, with the vitriolic acid, and a mucilaginous opiate.

AUGUST

AUGUST 8. Has continued to take the infusion regularly ; vomiting of blood still continues ; sleeps rather better ; cough easy ; sweats continue. Let the infusion be continued.

AUGUST 12. Took the infusion regularly. Vomiting of blood continues ; sweats as before, cough easy, and expectoration free.

AUGUST 13. Has taken the infusion regularly. Vomiting of blood has ceased ; but she is troubled with retchings and vomiting every morning, preceded by sweats, and a gnawing sensation in the stomach. In vomiting this morning says she threw up three small worms, which have not been preserved. Cough has disappeared ; sweats decreasing, except before the morning vomiting ; sleeps pretty well. Continue.

AUGUST 24. The vomiting has recurred at intervals without any worms having been thrown up, 'till this morning, when a considerable number of small ones, and of an uncommon shape, were discharged. Sweats have almost entirely ceased, and she is in other respects well. Continue the infusion.

SEPTEMBER 3. Was seized this morning with a return of vomiting, when she threw up a considerable number of worms similar to the last, and one of a much larger size and different shape, mixed with bloody and corrupted matter ; the small ones were so numerous they could not be reckoned, the entire matter thrown up being full of them. No cough, dyspnoea, or other distressing symptom.

R̄. Stanni pulverati drachmam, Salis Martis granum, fiant pulveres tales octo, & fumat unum quater de die.—Repetatur Infusum Corticis.

SEPTEMBER 5th. Has taken the whole of the powders; slight returns of vomiting; no appearance of worms; she was ordered and took a vomit of Ipecacuanha-wine, which operated well, but neither worms or bloody matter were discharged. The infusion was ordered to be continued.

SEPTEMBER 26th. Sweats have disappeared; cough is but slight; the vomiting pretty frequently recurs, but is not preceded by any unusual sensation, nor is it more frequent than in her former pregnancy. No appearance of blood or worms; strength in general much improved.

She was ordered to omit all medicines, was safely delivered of her child at the usual time, and is now in perfect health; though in general delicate, and subject to violent colds.

#### O B S E R V A T I O N S.

THE worms thrown up are delineated of the natural size and appearance in fig. 1. and 2. Fig. 1. represents the large one, consisting of a head and twelve joints; the three first joints are furnished each with a pair of legs, which all the others want. Fig. 2. represents the small worm, of which such numbers were discharged; and fig. 3. the belly of the same, viewed through a good common magnifying-glass. It consists of a head and ten joints, and has three double rows of legs; one double row on each side, and one double row of shorter ones down the middle of the belly. It has besides three legs projecting in the form of a tail from the last joint.

ALL these worms shewed signs of animation when discharged, especially on being exposed to the heat of the sun, but soon died.

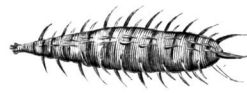
*Fig. 1.*



*Fig. 2.*



*Fig. 3.*



*S.C. del.*

died. They appear to me to be the larvæ of some insect, but of what particular species I am not naturalist minute enough to determine. The large one appears very similar to the larva of the common beetle. We have many instances related by various authors, of different species of worms discharged from the intestinal canal ; but of the different descriptions I have read, or specimens I have seen preserved in anatomical collections, none have struck me as in any degree similar to those discharged by the patient whose case has been just related. It is probable, as has before been mentioned, that the worms discharged were the larvæ of some insect which does not usually deposit its eggs in any part of the human frame ; but which having been accidentally deposited in, or conveyed into the body, were hatched, and acquired the size and form we have delineated.

THAT flies of various kinds deposit their eggs in living animal bodies, and that these eggs are by the heat of the animal hatched and transformed into maggots, is evident from the instance of many so produced in the rectum of horses, and backs of black cattle. The human body being in general better covered, and better defended from the attempts of such insects, does not exhibit so many instances of this nature. Still however it is liable to their attacks. Many cases have been published of various insects being hatched, and producing excruciating pain in the antrum maxillare, and other cavities leading to the nose. Other worms, evidently the larvæ of external insects, have been discovered in the intestines : And in the Medical Commentaries for the year 1787 there is a curious case of some existing under the skin.

A YOUNG

A YOUNG lad of about twelve years of age was afflicted with excruciating pains in his limbs to such a degree as to render life miserable. The pains were deemed rheumatic, and the usual remedies for that disorder applied without success. At length some worms worked their way out of different parts of his body, particularly the knees, breast and forehead; and he was immediately after considerably relieved. The worms are described as near an inch long, all in joints on the back, and with hard scales on them. The attending physician ascribes their origin to some flies having pierced the skin and lodged their ova in the punctures. Several other boys in the same part of the country were that season affected in a similar manner.

MANY instances have been given by medical authors, of inflammatory and other affections of the lungs occasioned by worms, some of which proved fatal; some being relieved, or totally removed by the discharge of these animals. Morgagni in the 2d book of his incomparable work *De Causis & Sedibus Morborum*, gives us the case of a patient, who laboured under every symptom of pleurisy, which terminated by his spitting up a quantity of blood with a round worm; after which he immediately got well. He in the same place quotes a work published by Ignatius Pedratti on the pleurisy from worms.

WE have other instances of worms discharged from the lungs by coughing, in Schenkius *Observ. De Pulmonibus*, lib. 2, in Lieutaud *Hist. Anatom. med.* in Percival's *Essays*, and in the works of several other medical writers.

It may perhaps be imagined that the pulmonic affections under which our patient laboured might have been owing to  
the



the worms she discharged, which perhaps worked their way downwards from the lungs into the stomach ; this however does not appear probable ; her having been subject to them for a series of years, their being frequently excited suddenly by the application of cold, and there terminating without the discharge of any such animals, are circumstances which militate strongly against the idea.

THERE can however I believe be little doubt that the complaints of the stomach with which she was seized, and the vomiting of blood, were occasioned by their presence ; and that they formed for themselves a nidus in the coats of the stomach appears pretty evident from the purulent and bloody matter which accompanied the discharge of the last portion of them.

NONE of the symptoms attending the vomiting of blood were such as indicated the presence of worms in the stomach and intestines ; nor when their presence was ascertained did the vermifuge medicines given appear to accelerate the cure ; still however the case may be instructive, as proving that the hæmatemesis or vomiting of blood sometimes arises from this source, and therefore that the physician should keep such a cause of the disorder in view whenever it proves obstinate or dangerous ; and the history is curious, as affording one certain fact respecting the nidification of insects in the internal parts of the human frame.

LIMERICK, December 1, 1794.

P. S. I send the worms themselves preserved in spirits of wine to be deposited in the collection of the Academy.